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GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies  
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Submitted via online form at: <http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov/get-involved/comment>

January 21, 2013

Regarding: Scoping EIS for GPT / Custer Spur project.  
Train and Water Vessel Traffic: Health and Safety impacts.

Dear sir/madam:

My family of five and I have lived and worked in Whatcom County for 24 years. Please include for the scope of the EIS the following areas of inquiry related to the potential health and safety impacts this project might have on our local community.

- 1) Due to increased rail and boat vessel traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be an increase in diesel emissions throughout the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County?
  - Do diesel emissions in the amounts resulting from this traffic pose a public health hazard?
    - If so, how will Gateway Pacific propose to mitigate the emissions, pay for the mitigation\* and / or compensate the victims of the health hazards?
- 2) Due to increased rail and boat vessel traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be an increase in coal dust emissions throughout the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County?
  - Do coal dust emissions in the amounts resulting from this traffic pose a public health hazard?
    - If so, how will Gateway Pacific propose to mitigate the emissions, pay for the mitigation\* and / or compensate the victims of the health hazards?

- 3) Due to increased rail and boat vessel traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be an increase in noise emissions throughout the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County?
- Does this level and duration of noise emissions in the amounts resulting from this traffic pose a public health hazard?
    - If so, how will Gateway Pacific propose to mitigate the emissions, pay for the mitigation\* and / or compensate the victims of the health hazards?
- 4) Due to increased rail traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be an increase in risk to rail / car accidents throughout the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County?
- If so, how will Gateway Pacific propose to mitigate the risk, pay for the mitigation\* and / or compensate the victims of the accidents?
- 5) Due to increased rail traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be an increase in risk to rail / pedestrian (or bike) accidents throughout the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County?
- If so, how will Gateway Pacific propose to mitigate the risk, pay for the mitigation\* and / or compensate the victims of the accidents?
- 6) Due to increased rail traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be any risk to public safety due to limited access from one area of the city or county to another?
- Will paramedic response times and services of City of Bellingham's Fire and Police Departments as well as Whatcom Medic One and Fire District 7 be reduced?
    - If so, how will this problem be mitigated and how will that be paid for?\*
- 7) Due to increased rail traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be any risk to public safety due to an increase risk of train derailment or coal car fires?
- If so, how will this problem be mitigated and how will that be paid for?\*
- 8) Due to increased boat vessel traffic resulting from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, will there be any risk to public safety due to an increase risk of boat to boat or boat to shore accidents?
- If so, how will this problem be mitigated and how will that be paid for?\*

Thank you for your time and commitment to this process.

Sincerely,

Todd Citron

\*Note: mitigation of problems should be the responsibility of Gateway Pacific as per Whatcom County Code 20.88.130 (6) that states that a “proposed major development...will not impose uncompensated requirements for public expenditures for additional utilities, facilities and services, and will not impose uncompensated costs on other property owned.”